



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,926	08/10/2001	Scott McLeod	210254	4524

7590

03/14/2003

Peter Loffler  
P.O. Box 1001  
Niceville, FL 32588-1001

EXAMINER

MENON, KRISHNAN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1723

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,926

Applicant(s)

MCLEOD, SCOTT

Examiner

Krishnan S Menon

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 1723

## DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

### *Election/Restrictions*

Claims 13-19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 4.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Boddeker et al (US 4,115,274).

Boddeker teaches a filter comprising a housing (fig 1) having an inlet port (45) outlet port (46), plurality of passages forming an S flow pattern (abstract) and connecting the inlet and outlet ports, passages bounded on at least one side by a membrane (22,23 fig 2) as in instant claim(s) 1. Instant claim(s) 7 has added elements to claim 1 such as the first and second ends with end caps having inlet and outlet connections (41 and 42, fig 1). Filter has a flange in the passage (12) creating turbulence as in instant claim(s) 2 and 8. At least one flange disposed between a connection point between the passages (see at 11', fig ) as in instant claim(s) 3 and 9. The membrane is with a frame

Art Unit: 1723

as in instant claim(s) 4 and 10 (see figures 3-6). Filter has plurality of permeate ports ending outside the housing (20-fig 1) as in instant claim(s) 6 and 12.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1,4,5,7,10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohl (US 3,494,468) in view of Boddeker (274).

Kohl teaches a filter with ends caps (26, fig 1), inlet and outlet (14,24), plurality of passages bounded by membranes disposed in the filter (54-fig 2) as in instant claim(s) 1 and 7. The membranes are in a frame as in instant claim(s) 4 and 10 (see figures). Kohl uses pressure plates (92 and 94 – fig ) with clamps or spring loaded as guides to retain the frames at the ends of the housing (see fig 1 and 3; col 3 lines 54-66)

Art Unit: 1723

Kohl does not teach an S flow pattern inside the filter through the passages. Boddeker teaches a filter in a housing having passages bounded by framed membranes wherein the flow is in an S flow path (see fig 1 and abstract). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the teaching of Boddeker in the teaching of Kohl to have an S flow path for the fluid flow for a reverse osmosis filter, as taught by Boddeker, for increased product output.

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's argument regarding the election/restriction is not persuasive. Applicant agrees that the two inventions are patentably distinct. Since the apparatus (filter) as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process, restriction is proper. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the filter as claimed can be used for any filtration process like water treatment, oil cleaning, air filtering, etc.; and the process as claimed could use other filters like spiral wound or pleated.

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kopf (US 5,868,930), Pierrard (US 4,816,150) and Frost (US 6,419,726 B1) are some of the relevant references with plate and frame type membrane and S flow pattern.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S Menon whose telephone number is 703-305-5999. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone numbers for the organization

Art Unit: 1723

where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Krishnan Menon  
Patent Examiner  
March 7, 2003

  
W. L. WALKER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700